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ΙI BLOCKADE

TOP SECRET

Action Contemplated

A. This alternative contemplates a series of political steps culminating in the establishment of a full or limited naval blockade based on a formal declaration of war within the framework of the OAS and the Rio Treaty. The

minimum objective would be the prevention of the introduction into Cubs of further offensive veapons. Hopefully, at some stage in the political steps, Khrushchev and Castro, faced by our clear determination, would agree to a settlement that would accomplish the minimum objective without the necessity of proceeding to the blockade. However, the likelihood of this is not high and once having undertaken this course we should be prepared to proceed firmly and expeditiously through its various steps. A full blockade could possibly be effective in about three months in bringing economic chaos to Cuba. A limited blockade could permit the passage of food, medicines and other purely civilian goods to reduce hardship to the Cuban people, and be directed only at offensive yearons or all weapons and war materiel, including POL

B. -Advantages. The advantages of the plan are that it contemplates a series of ascending political steps, at each stage of which Khrushchev and Castro could find an "out" if they desired and by maximum consultation reduce strain on our alliances and permits the action to be undertaken

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with the maximum possibility of such allied support as can be obtained. It also avoids the necessity of major military action directed against Cuban soil and could accomplish our objectives with minimum casualties on both sides.

C. <u>Disadvantages</u>. The Soviets could readily counter with a full blockade of Berlin or a blockade against only American forces in Berlin which could face us with a direct military confrontation with the Soviet Union. If the Soviets attempted to break the blockade it would also require that we take direct military action against Soviet vessels, including Soviet warships or submarines. The series of political steps contemplated would also permit our allies considerable opportunity to bring pressure to deflect or deter us from our course.

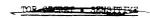
D. Accompanying Diplomatic Moves.

Scenario

lst day

- Immediately communicate privately with Khrushchev and Castro
 on presence of MRHM's, implying that, if satisfactory answer not
 received, further unspecified action would be taken.
- 2. Simultaneously inform key Latin American Governments
 (Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Erazil, and selected Central American countries) of facts, including showing of photographs here to
 Ambassadors, of communications to Castro and Ehrushchev and of countemplated CAS action.
- Simultaneously inform key NATO countries (Germany, France,
 U.K. and Italy) of facts, including showing of photographs to Ambassadors here.

4.00





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74. On the following day inform the NAC and GAS of the facts without spelling out contemplated action in detail.

5. On the same day, following conclusion of NAC and OAS meetings, the President issues a public statement including the following elements:

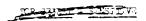
- a. Facts on the bases, emphasizing nature of threat to all of Caribbean area.
- b. Reference to previous Soviet public and private assurances that bases would not be established.
- c. Reference to President's previous statements on establishment of offensive threat in Cuba and Congressional Resolution.
- d. Reference to QAS Foreign Ministers' communique of October 6, including specifically surveillance of Suba.
- e. Precautionary military steps that have been taken to neutralize threat.

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f. The fact that we have immediately instituted consultation with the OAS members on further steps to be taken to meet this threat to hemispheric security.

6. Without prior announcement but without attempting to corceal the fact, undertake evacuation of dependents from Guantanano.

7. Make





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7. Make a special effort to have Venezuela, Colombia and Central American countries issue prompt public appeals for effective action keyed to threat bases represent to them.

3rd day

- 8. Await replies from Khrushchev and Castro and gauge domestic and international reaction.
- 9. Call for meeting of "Organ of Consultation" of the CAS for following day.

4th day

10. Dependent on assessment of reactions and replies received from Castro and Khrushchev, convene "Organ of Consultation" of the CAS seeking a resolution authorizing armed action against the threat to the security of the Hemisphere.

5th day

ll. If and when CAS action (which requires two-thirds' vote) is favorable, immediately seek a special session of the Congress

In the presentation of the resolution to Congress, the limited objectives of seeking the prevention of installation in Cuba of offensive weapons through a blockade should be expressed.

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E. Allied Reactions

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F. Soviet Reactions

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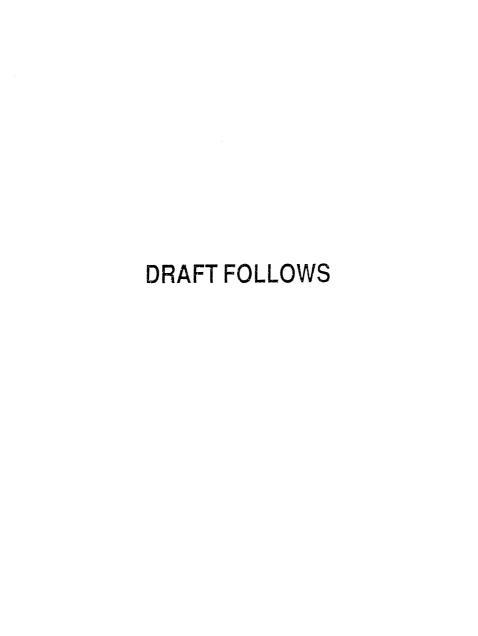
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G. Cuban Reactions

Cuban reactions could include an attack against Guantanamo, which would require direct military action on our part outside the area of the base to insure its defense. Castro might also take such action as beginning the execution of small groups of the Bay of Pigs prisoners, and/or other political prisoners making the lifting of the blockade the price for stopping. If and when the blockade resulted in threatening Castro's hold he might in desperation make small sporante air attacks against American civilian targets on the East coast. It is very unlikely that he could, without Soviet cooperation and assistance, fire MRBM's or other atomic weapons at U. S. targets.

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Blockade

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Note: This alternative contemplates the end result of a full or limited naval blockade with

a minimum objective of preventing the further introduction into Cuba of offensive weapons. Such a blockade can, both under international law and politically, best be imposed in connection with a formal declaration of war. It would be important that such a declaration be made within the framework and with the sanction of the CAS and the Rio Treaty.

Scenario

1st day

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2nd day

On the following day inform the NAC and OAS of the facts without spelling out contemplated action in detail.

- 5. On the same day, following conclusion of NAC and GAS meetings, the President issues a public statement including the following elements:
 - a. Facts on the bases, emphasizing nature of threat to all of Caribbean area.
 - b. Reference to previous Soviet public and private assurances that bases would not be established.
 - c. Reference to President's previous statements on establishment of offensive threat in Cuba and Congressional Resolution.
 - d. Reference to OAS Foreign Ministers' communique of October 6, including specifically surveillance of Suba.
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SECRET

APPROBLEMENT BOVERNMENT EXPENSE

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A. Soviet Reactions





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3. Allied Reactions



C. Cuban Reactions

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